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UKRAINIAN FERROUS METALS MINISTER CALLS FOR IMPROVEMENT

[Comment: The information in the following report was taken from a speech delivered by S. I. Tishchenko, Minister of Ferrous Metallurgy Ukrainian SSR, at the 18th Conference of the Communist Party Ukrainian SSR. The speech appeared in the 25 March 1954 issue of Pravda Ukrainy.]

The 27 March issue of the source noted that Tishchenko had been elected to the Central Committee, Communist Party Ukrainian SSR.]

Despite the tremendous damage inflicted upon Ukrainian iron and steel plants during the war, the Ukraine attained the prewar level of ferrous metals output in 1949 and in 1950.

Ukrainian plants produced one and one half times more metal in 1953 than in 1940. More specifically, 1953 cast iron production was 47.5 percent over 1940 production, steel was 56.1 percent over 1940 production, rolled stock was 57.3 percent over 1940 production, and steel pipe was three times the 1940 level.

The blast furnace coefficient of performance is also being systematically improved. In 1952, Ukrainian plants averaged a ton of pig iron output per 1.22 cubic meters of furnace; in 1953 the figure was cut to 0.9 cubic meters. The steel yield per square meter of open-hearth furnace floor was 50 percent greater in 1953 than in 1952.

Much of this improvement was due to new equipment, better utilization of existing facilities, increased productivity of labor, and the widespread dissemination of progressive methods.

One of the principal shortcomings in the Ukrainian ferrous metallurgical industry is the sporadic, unrhythmic operation of individual plants, shops, and aggregates.

Ferrous metallurgy overfulfilled the January and February 1954 rolled stock and steel pipe plan but fell short on cast iron, steel, and iron ore output. The records of such major plants as the Dneprodzerzhinsk Metallurgical Plant imeni Dzerzhinskiy, the Zaporozh'ye Metallurgical Plant imeni Ordzhonikidze, and the Yenakiyev Metallurgical Plant were noticeably inferior during early 1954.

The January and February 1954 iron ore output norm went unfulfilled. This is the direct result of unsatisfactory preparation for the winter season, inadequate supervision and control, and failure in the supply of electric power, timber, fuel, and other materials. Because of unsatisfactory coal delivery by the Ministry of the Coal Industry, the coke production plan for January-February 1954 was unfulfilled.

Although the capital works program is increased every year, the new construction plan is not proceeding satisfactorily. This places a limitation on the metallurgical industry in increasing their metals output. The 1954 plan provides for an additional increase in capital works projects in the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy Ukrainian SSR.

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The construction of consumer goods shops must also be expanded. Moreover, there must be a considerable increase in the quantity of housing, playgrounds, schools, hospitals, clubs, etc.

The ferrous metallurgical industry of the Ukrainian SSR is faced with the immediate task of making up its early 1954 plan underfulfillments.

In creating the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy Ukrainian SSR, the party and the government intended bringing the administrative organs and the individual enterprises closer together.

The 1954 record so far demonstrates the need for maintaining close intercourse between various branches of the national economy. It is of special import to establish a closer contact between the metallurgical and transport industries. The transport people should be mindful of the fact that the metallurgical industry cannot meet its quotas unless the necessary raw materials are delivered on schedule and in sufficient quantity.

We therefore ask the Central Committee, Communist Party of the Ukrainian SSR, to aid us in our task by coordinating our needs with those of the other ministries. Special attention must be given the Ministry of Construction. If they continue to lag, the state plan will be endangered.

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